

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
TRANSPARANCY,
RELIABILITY, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE (TRAC)**

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WEITHORN**

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PATRICIA WALKER**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
JEAN OLIN**

**TRAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 28, 2008**

In attendance:

Committee Members: Commissioner Deede Weithorn, Frank Del Vecchio, Mike Burke, Sam Rabin, Mark Hunter, Robert Henry

Absent: David Lancz, Steve Chaneles

City Staff: Matti Herrera Bower, Jorge Gonzalez, Patricia Walker, Alison Williams, Anne Swanson, Bob Biles

Public: Harry Cherry, Morris Sunshine, Joseph Pardo

Commissioner Weithorn introduced Joseph Pardo. Joseph is a Miami Beach High School student who will be interning for her office and working on the TRAC website as well as doing research for committee.

Frank Del Vecchio made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2008 meeting. Sam Rabin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the committee.

A discussion was held regarding the Watson and Rice contract for an external audit and consulting services for the Building Department. Frank Del Vecchio was concerned about how far up in the administration the investigation would go in regards to analyzing the responsibility of monitoring department activities, especially as during the process the consultants will report directly to the administration. Commissioner Weithorn commented that the workplan for the audit is open to allow for flexibility in the investigation, as well as with the suggested changes made through a comparison with other cities Building Departments. Changes have already been made in the Building Department as a result of the administration's response to the arrests and include increased security controls in the Building Department's Permits Plus program. Commissioner Weithorn said that while operational controls and procedures have been put in place in the Building Department over the past several months, the culture of the organization has not changed. This is the largest challenge facing the Building Department.

The committee reviewed the top ten hit list of the city's website. The committee will be reviewing this list each month to better understand what information people are looking for on the website.

The committee discussed what information may be included on a very short Commission Meeting Agenda overview, which would allow the public to quickly find the agenda item they are interested in, as well as give them a little basic information about the item. Information included should be how it was referred to the Commission, if it is first or second reading, amount of funds if spending approval is a part of the item, and the page number in the agenda book. The Commission receives a version of this on the day of the commission meeting, which will now be made available on the city website with the full agenda while the TRAC members work on a new format.

The next TRAC meeting will be September 25, 2008 at 5pm.

Meeting Adjourned